

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached herewith is one (1) corrected drawing sheet to be substituted for the corresponding drawing sheet presently on file in the above-identified application. The attached replacement drawing sheet includes a change to Figure 3. The replacement drawing sheet incorporates the change required in reply to the Office Action dated August 13, 2004, and is not believed to add new matter to the original disclosure. More specifically, the changes are as follows:

In Fig. 3, icon “Add Printer” has been labeled with reference designator 31a, to be consistent with the specification at page 9, line 14.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Change

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 13, 2004. Claims 1-34 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 8, 15, 23-25, 27, 29, and 31 are in independent form. Claims 1, 8, 15, and 23-25 and have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, and Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-21 have been amended as to matters of form. Claims 27-34 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for the reason stated at page 2.

Applicant has carefully reviewed and amended Fig. 3 to overcome the noted objection. It is believed that the objection to Fig. 3 has been remedied, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,838,319 (*Guzak et al.*); Claims 2, 9, 16, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C., § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Guzak et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,895,474 (*Maarek et al.*); Claims 6, 13, and 20 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Guzak et al.* in view of the Cowart publication, "Mastering Windows 95" (*Cowart*); Claims 7, 14, and 21 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Guzak et al.*; and Claims 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, and 19 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Guzak et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,003,040 (*Mital et al.*).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 8, 15, and 23-25 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims and new independent claims 27, 29, and 31, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of peripheral devices. The apparatus includes a storage device, detection means, display means, and control means. The storage device stores predetermined objects for the peripheral devices based on directory information. The detection means detect a specific object in the directory information read from the storage device, and the display means displays, in accordance with a tree list, the specific object detected by the detection means. The control means, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object corresponding to one of the peripheral devices locally connected to the information processing apparatus to the specific object corresponding to another specific peripheral device not locally connected to the information processing apparatus, permits the display means to display, in accordance with the tree list, the specific object detected by the detection means.

Among other important features of Claim 1 is that the control means, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object corresponding to one of the peripheral devices locally connected to the information processing apparatus to the specific object corresponding to another specific peripheral device not locally

connected to the information processing apparatus, permits the display means to display, in accordance with the tree list, the specific object detected by the detection means.

Guzak et al. relates to displaying items in a hierarchical fashion in a data processing system. The *Guzak et al.* system provides a tree view control that may be used by application programs. The tree view control enables an application program to display a hierarchical list of items. However, Applicant has found nothing in *Guzak et al.* that would teach or suggest control means for, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object corresponding to one of the peripheral devices locally connected to the information processing apparatus to the specific object corresponding to another specific peripheral device not locally connected to the information processing apparatus, permitting the display means to display, in accordance with the tree list, the specific object detected by the detection means, as recited in Claim 1. In fact, *Guzak et al.* is understood to fail to address a case where a peripheral device is locally connected to an information processing apparatus and a peripheral device not locally connected to the information processing device, and therefore *Guzak et al.* fails to teach or suggest the control means of Claim 1.

For at least the above reason, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Guzak et al.*

Independent Claims 8 and 15 are method and control program claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over *Guzak et al.* for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Additionally, independent Claims 23-25 include a feature similar as that discussed above in

connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 23-25 are believed to be patentable for reasons substantially similar as those discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 27 is an information processing apparatus located in one of a plurality of network segments separated by computers. The apparatus includes display means displaying a display screen such that a plurality of peripheral devices are positioned at respective determined directory layers, and control means for controlling the display means to display the display screen such that a first peripheral device connected to one of the plurality of network segments and a second peripheral device connected to another of the plurality of network segments are positioned at respective predetermined directory layers in accordance with the number of computers positioned between the information processing apparatus and the one and the other network segments.

Among other important features of Claim 27 is that, under control of the control means, display means displays the display screen such that a first peripheral device connected to one of the plurality of network segments and a second peripheral device connected to another of the plurality of network segments are positioned at respective predetermined directory layers in accordance with the number of computers positioned between the information processing apparatus and the one and the other network segments.

Applicant submits that none of the cited prior art teaches or suggests at least this feature of Claim 27. Accordingly, Applicant believes this claim to recite patentable subject matter.

Independent Claims 29 and 31 are method and control program claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claim 27, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 27.

Regarding the rejection of independent Claim 23 over *Guzak et al.* and *Maarek et al.*, the Office Action states that Claim 23 is similar in scope to Claim 2 and therefore is rejected under a similar rationale as Claim 2. However, Applicant believes the Examiner intended to reject apparatus Claim 23, which corresponds to method Claim 24 and control program Claim 25, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Guzak et al.* because these claims are more similar in scope than are Claims 2 and 23.

Nonetheless, it is believed that Claim 23 is patentable over the combination of references proposed in the Office Action for the following reasons.

The deficiencies of *Guzak et al.* as a reference against Claim 23 were described above.

Maarek et al. is cited in the Office Action as teaching a method of providing an interactive, tree structured, graphical visualization aid wherein a control means for omitting an intermediate path is applied. However, nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Maarek et al.* that would remedy the deficiencies of *Guzak et al.* as a reference against Claim 23. Accordingly, Claim 23 is deemed clearly patentable over those references, whether considered separately or in combination.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank A. DeLucia
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 42,476

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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